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REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated July 2, 2004. Claims 3-20 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 8, and 12 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to because they are informal drawings, they require proper labeling and they require proper paper. The Examiner indicated that corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office Action. Applicant notes that formal drawings were sent in on May 11, 2001. Applicant believes that these drawings should have been acceptable. However, to further the prosecution of this case, replacement pages for those drawings are attached in this response.

Claims 3-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Stroyan*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The Examiner has interpreted the term "which antialiasing value is retained as a function of the polygon being in the foreground during the rendering operation" as being described in *Stroyan*. The Examiner referred to the disclosure at Column 3, Lines 45-46 specifically. The specification therein sets forth that there is provided a memory for storing antialias blending information associated with the pixels. The Examiner goes on further to state that, in Figure 1C, there is a representation that the polygon is disposed in the foreground. The Examiner further refers to Column 6, Lines 5-52 as to the operation of the Z-buffer and the way the data is written into the frame buffer. In the body of the rejection in paragraph 2, the Examiner refers to Figure 4 wherein *Stroyan* illustrates a back buffer and a front buffer with Z-buffer associated therewith. The Examiner refers to the Z-buffer and the back buffer as the secondary Z-value. Applicant believes that this is an incorrect reading of the specification of *Stroyan* and the claim. The claims require, in the independent claims 3 and 12, that the second buffer provides for storage of an antialiasing value. This antialiasing value is associated with the edge pixel in the first buffer but the value therein is retained based upon whether the polygon in which the pixel resides is in the foreground during the rendering operation of the pixel. Applicant contends that *Stroyan*

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does not provide such a function. Whether the antialiasing value is retained or not retained is not a function of the polygon being in the foreground or in the background. Applicant's present inventive concept is directed toward the concept that only certain antialiasing information is retained. To facilitate this, if the secondary Z-value for a pixel in one polygon is greater than the primary value in the second polygon, then that indicates that the second polygon in which the pixel lies is underneath the previously rendered polygon. Therefore, the antialiasing mask will be retained. Since there is no determination made for a given pixel during rendering of a polygon in *Stroyan*, it is not possible for *Stroyan* to make any decision about whether to retain the antialiasing value as a function of the position of the polygon relative to the Z-value. *Stroyan* merely provides for a determination as to whether a pixel is an edge pixel and, if so, then storing any blending information associated therewith. As such, *Stroyan* does not provide any motivation or suggestion that would provide for any retention decision based upon whether the polygon was in the foreground or not. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the U.S.C. §102(e) rejection with respect to Claims 3-20.

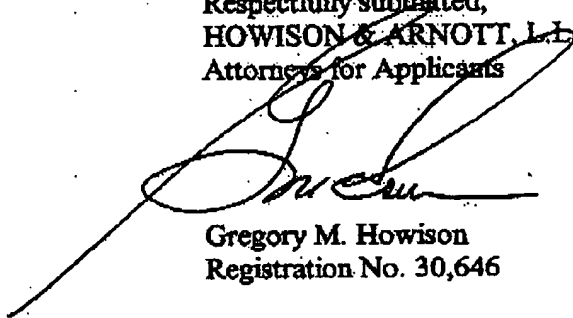
With respect to the dependent claims, specifically dependent claim 8 and dependent claim 20, there is set forth that the antialiasing value that is associated therewith indicates whether a sub-pixel is covered. This is a secondary Z-value. There is no association between a Z-value and an antialiasing value in *Stroyan* other than the fact that each pixel can have an antialiasing value. However, the Z-value merely determines or sets forth the absolute depth of that pixel. Without comparing that to the depth of other polygons in which the pixel resides, it is impossible to determine from that pixel whether the pixel in a particular polygon is covered or not. As such, Applicant believes that claims 8 and 20 are clearly distinguished over the *Stroyan* reference.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/BBOY-25,415 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

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Respectfully submitted,
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